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than to college courses, where a more harmonious combination of the parts might be advisable.

Professor Davis has the knack of vivid and fluent narrative. The tale reads well and is interesting. The author makes the great figures of French history appear living, and has wisely preferred to emphasize the connection of history with important aspects of social life, such as art, letters, and institutions, rather than to stress the details of warfare and of field strategy.

The necessity for quick results in the composition of the volume is accountable for evidences of haste and for certain slips in nomenclature, by way of accents, which slips betray the writer not thoroughly at home in French. "Eventuated" (p. 86) and "quite a few" (p. 170) are more journalistic than soberly historical. "The nature of the monarchy and power of Louis XIV. have been set forth" (p. 170) is not the best way to begin a chapter. "For Napoleon III. to have refused to answer the challenge would have cost" (p. 498) is but one instance of Professor Davis's over-fondness for double past tenses. We read of Marie de Medici on page 131 and of Marie de Médicis on page 132. "Boutéville" (p. 137), "Abbéville" (p. 162), "Jerôme" (p. 347), "Uzés" (p. 550), and "Jaurés" (p. 586), testify, among other instances, to uncertainty with accents, as do "tricouleur" (p. 275) and "pays légale" (p. 421) to uncertainty with French. "Luson" (p. 134), "Gustine" (p. 312), and "Lacomte" (p. 514) may be misprints, but Loménie de Brienne should not be designated as "Archbishop of Brienne" (p. 239), and it is misleading to call Marshal Ney "Prince of Moscow" (p. 369), which would be in French *Prince de Moscou*, instead of his real title *Prince de la Moskowa*. The present republic was not finally acknowledged by a "so-called Walloon amendment" (p. 532) but by an amendment proposed by M. Wallon, and Molière may be a Gallic Aristophanes, but scarcely a "Gallican Aristophanes" (p. 173) any more than an ultramontane one.

Professor Davis has wisely concentrated his attention in recent French history to certain great events like Boulangism, the Dreyfus case, and the disestablishment of the Church, but the Panama scandal caused too much turmoil and bitterness in politics and finance, and forms too convenient a transition between Boulangism and the Dreyfus case, to be neglected.

C. H. C. WRIGHT.

English Economic History: Select Documents. Compiled and edited by A. E. BLAND, P. A. BROWN, and R. H. TAWNEY. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1919. Pp. xx, 730. \$2.25.)

PUBLISHED first in 1914, the present issue is merely the third impression and in appearance much inferior to the original. The field covered is from about 1000 A.D. to the corn-law debate of 1846. These

eight centuries and a half are divided into three periods, the middle one being from 1485 to 1660. Probably every student of English economic history has his own conception of what the middle period is, but only those not yet emancipated from political history would follow the editors of this volume in their choice. Within each period, the arrangement is topical. It is curious to note that while public finance is dealt with in the first and last periods, it is omitted in the middle period.

The selection of documents seems on the whole to have been carefully made. It is a bit unfortunate, however, that the very first document should be one of the most difficult in the whole book to interpret. But such a collection as this is made neither for continuous reading nor for immature students. The teaching of history to undergraduates by reading original documents presumably belongs to the days when professional historians failed to distinguish between research and teaching, and between graduate and undergraduate instruction.

The editors were misguided in publishing the customs document of 1302. It is quite long and was superseded a few months later by the document of 1303, the very next one in the book. The latter, the well-known *Carta Mercatoria*, is given the incorrect heading, "The Custom on General Imports". It really includes export as well as import duties, and is not confined to customs. The editors have followed precedent in printing the *Carta Mercatoria* from a later confirmation, rather than from a more accurate record on the contemporary Fine Rolls.

About twenty pages are devoted to "The Feudal Structure". Similar records can be found in readily accessible collections. The space so used might have been more profitably given up to manorial accounts which are not included at all, to the Hanseatic League entirely ignored, or to the Revolt of 1381 which is inadequately dealt with. The demands of the peasants both at Mile End and at Smithfield constitute one of the best commentaries on economic conditions in fourteenth-century England, but they find no place in this collection. Much space is taken up by selections from the well-known and easily accessible *Commonweal of this Realm of England*, while the regulations of 1565 concerning piracy and the corn trade, and the bounty acts of 1673 and 1689 are omitted.

All documents are given in English, regardless of the language of the originals. The difficulties of interpretation which the originals present are mostly solved in the translation. If the editors had put in brackets the original word after the English term in all cases of difficulty, the student would not have to go back to the original quite so frequently. Translation is interpretation; and when we read the word "interest", we want to know whether it really means interest or usury; similarly whether "slave" is really a slave or a serf, and "prisage" really prisage or modulation.

The editors have produced a useful and scholarly book and we are all grateful. It is to be hoped that the success of this work will induce

others to do the same for French, German, Italian, Dutch, and Spanish economic history. Perhaps this is the logical step after the new series *Handbuch der Wirtschaftsgeschichte* has been published. All single-volume collections covering so wide a field, however, should be regarded as pioneer efforts. They should be followed by more special collections. Whether these special collections should be on shorter periods or on certain topics is a question for debate. While a well-rounded collection of records confined to a certain period will show interrelations between various forces, an ample source-book devoted to one institution or kind of production, such as commercial association or manufacture, would show development from beginning to end, the genesis of history. The latter plan is coming to be the more useful, but at present it is more difficult because historical training tends toward the compartment treatment—ancient, medieval, and modern—and of course for the very good reason that it is (or seems to be) more feasible.

The service that the editors have done for the reader in providing him with a useful list of readings and commentaries on the subject and the contents of the documents, and also with explanatory foot-notes, must not be forgotten.

N. S. B. GRAS.

Poland the Unknown. Translated from the French of K. WALISZEWSKI. (London: William Heinemann, 1919; New York: George H. Doran Company, 1920. Pp. xiii, 263. \$2.25.)

M. WALISZEWSKI, already well known to the Western public through his long series of studies on Russia from Ivan the Terrible to Catherine II., returns in the present volume to the history of his own country. This is, however, by no means a narrative of Polish history, and it can scarcely be read with much profit by those who are not already familiar with that subject. It is rather an essay on the causes of the decline and fall of the old Polish state.

The literature available in Western languages on that grave but fascinating theme is mainly the work of German and Russian scholars or of others who derived their information or their ideas almost solely from them. These writers commonly proceed by first drawing a veritable caricature of old Poland, and then concluding that the nation deserved all that it has suffered: "Die Weltgeschichte ist das Weltgericht", and people who are struck down by assassins invariably die of internal organic trouble. The Polish side of the case has seldom been heard, for Polish historians have rarely had the good fortune to be translated.

M. Waliszewski's book is largely a vigorous and effective polemic against the misrepresentations of Polish history so long and systematically inspired by Berlin and St. Petersburg. Unfortunately, his own views as to the causes of Poland's downfall are nowhere very concisely